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## SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

*Commercial Geography.* By ALBERT PERRY BRIGHAM. Boston, Ginn & Co. 1911. 28 chapters, 449 pages, 17 colored maps and 253 illustrations. \$1.30.

This latest addition to the texts of commercial geography will very rapidly prove its worth because of the practical pedagogic principles followed in the arrangement and presentation of the material.

The great raw materials of world-wide interest and of vast significance in the commercial world are concretely presented, as Part I., in a series of chapters on wheat, cotton, cattle, iron and coal. A study of the activities centered about each of these great raw materials gives the student a broad outlook and furnishes a basis for Chapter VI. on the Principles of Commercial Geography. The discussion of raw materials before the considerations of the geographic principles will be welcomed by educators as far superior to the usual broad generalizations concerning a conglomerate hodgepodge of land forms, climate, rivers, lakes, raw materials, transportations and industry. Chapter IV. on Iron is typical of the method in which this text presents all of the five great raw materials. This chapter has excellent views, diagrams, maps and graphs.

The five types of raw materials are followed by the discussion and application of the principles to the United States which forms Part II. of the text. This presents in eleven chapters the physical features; plant, animal and mineral industries; water resources; transportation; commerce; centers of general industry and the concentration of industries. The space given to the United States is more than the average text, but this added emphasis is in accord with the general movement among educators to require from students a better understanding of our own country. The maps of production are especially clear and are constructed so that a comparison of various states and regions is very easy. The water resources of the United States is a chapter not generally considered in a commercial geography, but it

makes a most valuable addition. The concentration of industries and the centers of general industry is another innovation which is most heartily endorsed by instructors as excellent material well designed for instruction in modern commercial geography.

The foreign countries receive a brief but ample discussion for high school students. In each of the countries the proper emphasis is given the predominant industry of each individual country. The final chapter on World Commerce is an excellent application of the geographic principles which have been developed in the previous sections of the text.

In the writer's opinion this text has many points of superiority which greatly strengthen the instruction in commercial geography.

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SOME EARLY PHYSIOGRAPHIC  
INFERENCES

THE inferences of early travelers as to the physiography of a region are always interesting if the traveler is a good observer. The following references may not be new to some geologists, but they were new to the writer and seem worth publishing.

Wm. Darby in his "Emigrant's Guide," 1811, states that one of the branches of the St. Francois River "appears to have been an ancient outlet of the Mississippi" (page 139). Apropos of the same region, James Hall in his "Notes on the Western States," Philadelphia, 1838, says "About midway between St. Louis and the mouth of the Ohio, masses of limestone rock are seen on either side, which, though now unconnected, have the appearance of once having formed a continuous ridge crossing the river in an oblique direction" (page 47). Both these travelers, in looking across the southeast lowlands of Missouri, inferred general truths that, taken together, would form important links in the history so admirably worked out nearly a century later by Professor C. F. Marbut.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> "The Evolution of the Northern Part of the